The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

Porto Rican Workers Outraged; Protest to President Gompers

Washington, Feb. 19.—President Gompers has received numerous letters of protest from Porto Rico trade unions against the treatment government officials and employers are according agricultural workers who struck last month for better conditions.

The letters are written in Spanish, and all tell the story of brutality, tragedy and woe in the lives of Porto Rico workers.

The following English translation of one letter—from Caguas, Porto Rico—indicates the sufferings of these workers, who are jailed, beaten and shot because they dare strike:

"The islands of Porto Rico is being governed by large corporations that radiate throughout the country, and these are who practically dominate and dispose of the earth and of its services, the unfortunate day laborers. The countrymen here have no homes and must live submitting to the caprice of the feudal lord who allows them to live on his land, like in the medevial ages, with the condition that this pariah (outcasts) cannot and would not dare to raise their looks to the face of their masters, and if they should dare to ask for any improvement, or declare a strike, then be thrown out of the hut in which he lives and must wander without bread and shelter.

"Now in January, 1916, the countrymen were again reduced to the necessity of striking, asking larger salary and less hours of work, because the patrons did not accept the arbitration proposed by the department of labor, and the attacks and the killings has been repeated.

"At Bayamon the house of the free federation (the office of the union) was attacked by the police meanwhile the strikers were holding a peaceful meeting. Various of the strikers and federationists were thrown into prison, sentenced from 10 days to two years in prison. The manifestations of the strikers were dissolved, and the police attacked them and dispersed them with shots.

"At Rio Grande they were badly beaten, and hardly are they permitted to cross the public highways without being in danger of their lives. The strikebreakers go about with knives, protected by the overseers, foremen and public police.

"A manifestation that was going from Loiza to Rio Grande was dispersed by shots and cutlasses, resulting in two deaths and many wounded seriously.

"In Juana Diaz the police killed one and wounded 18."

Conditions in Porto Rico have been protested by recent conventions of the American Federation of Labor, to which these workers are affiliated. President Gompers has submitted these protests to the proper authorities at Washington.

WORK IS NOT STEADY IN GARMENT INDUSTRY

Washington, Feb. 19.—In a report just issued by the bureau of statistics, United States Department of Labor, it is shown that the problem of irregularity of employment in the women's ready-to-wear industries "seems to be quite as acute as ever," in spite of the elimination of excessive overtime, the shortening of the regular hours of labor and the raising of wages. It is stated that shorter hours, better treatment and better weekly pay have not been accompanied by a lengthening of working time in this seasonal trade, and that employers have paid no attention to this fact.

The bureau's study is based upon data secured from employers' pay rolls showing the actual amount of wages paid from week to week for a period of 52 consecutive weeks. New York, Chicago, Cleveland and Boston, four of the five leading centers in this industry, were covered. In these four cities 500 shops, representing about 150,000 employes, and 17 groups of manufacturers, were investigated. In one of the industries, one-tenth of the employes had work for less than 10 weeks and less than one-tenth of these actually employed during the year had work for as much as 40 weeks.

"In spite of this extreme irregularity," continues the report, "the matter of regularization of employment has, so far, received but scant attention from manufacturers or their organizations. Many individual employers, when first interviewed, were apparently unaware of the extreme irregularity of their pay rolls, and stated that for the most part their business showed very little irregularity in the course of a year, and that, generally speaking, employment in the garment trades is as regular as it could possibly be under the existing circumstances."

The bureau believes that considerable relief from unemployment can be secured by the systematic "dovetailing" of occupations in some of the allied branches of the trades, and cites the experience of individual manufacturers to support this position.

"Dovetailing" consists in utilizing employes during the dull season for the manufacture of garments of a simpler variety than the line ordinarily produced, and which the garment worker could easily adjust himself to at short notice.

FAVORS U. S. ARMOR PLANT.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Government monopolization of the business of manufacturing armor plate for use in war ships is urged in a statement by Senator Tillman, chairman of the senate committee on naval affairs. Mr. Tillman made this statement coincident with the presentation of the senate naval committee's report authorizing the construction or acquisition by the government of an armor plate plant. He said:

"My experience for 20 years in the senate, during all of which time I have been on the naval committee, has made me entirely familiar with the enormous profits which the armor makers have been taking from the government."

WAIST MAKERS WIN.

Boston, Feb. 19.—As a result of a strike, several thousand waist makers, affiliated to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, have secured union recognition, wage increases of from 5 to 20 per cent, and a reduction of working hours from 54 to 49 per week. The union has increased its membership by about 1,000.

FURNITURE DRIVERS WIN.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 19.—The Furniture Drivers' union has signed a three-years' agreement with employers. Wages are raised $1 a week with time and one-half for overtime after the first hour of overtime. The new scale means a yearly addition of $10,000 to these workers.

CARPENTERS MAKE GAINS.

Indianapolis, Feb. 19.—Secretary Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners reports that unions have been formed at the following places during the past month: Hyde Park and Fall River, Mass.; Westbrook and Camden, Maine; Bend, Ore., and Thetford Mines, Quebec.

ACCEPT UNION HOURS.

Lawrence, Kan., Feb. 19.—The construction company that is building a bridge in this city has decreased the work day from 10 to 8 hours and has accepted the wage rates of the Carpenters' union.

WANT HIGHER WAGES.

Elizabeth, N. J., Feb. 19.—The Carpenters' union has voted to demand a wage of $4.50 per day. The present rate is $4.

PAVING CUTTERS RAISE WAGES.

Kecote, Ontario, Feb. 19.—The Paving Cutters' union has signed a 10 per cent wage increase contract with employers.

LABOR LAW APPLIES TO ALL

Boston, Mass., Feb. 19.—The supreme court's decision in the case of Madden vs. Whitall factory company is a most important ruling, as it is held that the compensation law of Massachusetts is not intended to take into account the previous physical condition of applicants for benefits under the act.

Honora Madden was employed at the Whitall carpet factory, Worcester. While pulling a carpet she injured herself and the state industrial accident board awarded her $235.55. The company, through a casualty concern, disputed this order on the ground that the woman had heart trouble.

In denying the company's claim, the court said there is nothing in the law about protection being confined solely to healthy employes, and that the previous condition of health is of no consequence in determining the amount of relief to be afforded.

In answer to the company's claim that grave economic consequences of far-reaching effect may follow from the act as thus construed, the court said:

"The considerations are of great public moment. But these factors relate to legislative questions and the arguments founded on them are distinctly legislative arguments. They may be entitled to attention and deliberation at the hands of the legislative department of government. In the present form they cannot have decisive significance, even if it were plain that the enumerated consequences were inevitable. The function of the judicial department is simply to determine whether an act is within the power vested by the constitution in the legislature, and then to enforce it according to its true meaning in cases as they arise."

FEAR ROCKEFELLER OFFER.

New York, Feb. 19.—Trade union agitation against the Rockefeller Foundation is bearing fruit, and now dignitaries of the Episcopal church are looking for the "concealed African" that is always associated with the oil king's "generosity."

At a meeting of the church's board of foreign missions in this city it was decided to accept the Rockefeller Foundation donation for a university and hospital in China only on condition that such acceptance "does not interfere in any way with our own control of our church institutions."

Bishop Nelson, of Atlanta, opposed acceptance. "There may be strings to this offer and we may find ourselves tied up to outside institutions," he said. The offer is being investigated.

TRACKMEN STRIKE.

Jersey City, N. J., Feb. 19.—Several hundred trackmen and repair workers on the Central Railroad of New Jersey struck for a wage increase from $1.75 to $2 a day and a reduction in working hours from 10 to 8.

Railroad officials affected a puzzled air when asked about the strike. One of them stated that he "had learned in a roundabout way that the strike had something to do with pay." When asked if $1.75 for 10 hours was sufficient, he ventured the opinion that while the pay was not large "it has been the standard for such labor."

ACTIVE IN CHARLESTON.

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 19.—Cooks and waiters have organized, as have the post office clerks.

At a joint meeting of officials of district Nos. 17 and 29 United Mine Workers' union, plans were perfected to start an organizing campaign among the unorganized mine sections of this state.

THE DIFFERENCE.

Denver, Feb. 19.—In the Industrial Bulletin, published by the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, is printed President Welborn's explanation of the Rockefeller "union" idea. The coal executive writes:

"The plan specifically provides that every employe shall have the right of ultimate appeal to the president of the company concerning any condition or treatment to which he may be subjected and which he may deem unfair; though before presenting any grievance to the president, the president's industrial representative, or other higher officers of the company, employes are first expected to first seek to have their differences or the conditions complained about adjusted in person or though their representatives, with the mine superintendent."

The differences betwen this plan and trade unionism is.

While trade unionism always encourages workers to protest, it is aware of the fate of employes who become too insistent in their rights.

No trade union denies an individual member the right to enter objection to manager or other official against working conditions, but experience has proven this is not a safe procedure—if the worker values his job.

FAVORS EIGHT HOUR DAY.

New York, Feb. 19.—At an eight-hour agitation meeting, held under the auspices of the labor forum, the following telegram was received from Grand President Garretson, of the Order of Railway Conductors:

"The demand for an eight-hour day is not only ethically but biologically and socially well founded, and in connection with the movement of trains, is the basic element of the widely heralded motto, 'safety first.' Interstate commerce commission statistics show for year ended June 30, 261,332 cases where 16 hours' service were exceeded by train and enginemen. Each case involves five men, which means that more than one-half million men were required to exceed 16 hours' arduous duty in that year. Five thousand were on duty 27 hours, and 800 were on duty 65 hours or more. The public has a vital interest in this phase of 'safety first.'"

UNIONISTS ASK LAW CHANGES.

Boston, Feb. 19.—Trade unionists are urging the city council to change the "sauntering and loitering" ordinance so as to prevent it conflicting with the "peaceful picketing" law during strikes and lockouts. When the ordinance was framed union officials who protested against it were told that it would not conflict with the statute law, and that the ordinance was intended to give the police some authority under which they could handle the "masher" nuisance in public parks. Despite these claims, the ordinance is now used by police to intimidate pickets in strike times.

SIGNS PROHIBITED.

Cincinnati, Feb. 19.—Judge Nippert, of the common pleas court, has restrained members of the Butchers' union from carrying a sign in front of shops that patronize a packing company against which the unionists are striking.

While the honorable court did not use the terms "unconstitutionality" and "confiscatory," he approached these hackeneyed phrases in his declaration that the union's methods are "thoroughly un-American and contrary to the spirit of our constitution and bill of rights."

WIN FREE TEXT BOOKS FIGHT.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 19.—The trade union movement has won its fight for the continuance of the free text book system, which has been in force during the past several years. By a close vote the board of education adopted a resolution requesting the city commissioners to set aside sufficient money to supply all children in the grammar grades.

PAINTERS ASK INCREASE.

Holyoke, Mass., Feb. 19.—Painters' union has prepared a new wage schedule which calls for 50 cents an hour to take effect May 1. The present rate is 45½ cents.

WILL ORGANIZE MACHINISTS.

Boston, Feb. 19.—Representatives of the Machinists' union have started a 10-weeks' organizing campaign among these workers in Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Wages of Railroad Men Shown; Managers' Claims Are Refuted

Cleveland, Feb. 19.—Railroad transportation service employes are paid fabulous wages is the claim of the publicity bureau maintained by railroads of this country, who are opposing the eight-hour demand of the four railroad brotherhoods.

The railroad men object to these statements, and over the signatures of the executives of their brotherhoods the following figures are officially announced, under the caption "What the Men Really Get:"

"The pay of train service employes, other than passenger, is based on 100 miles or less, ten hours or less. In the eastern territory, for instance, the brakeman will receive the munificent sum of $2.67 for regular freight train service, out of which he must maintain his family at home and take care of himself at the other end of the road. The 100-mile trip is what represents one day's work and means that at its expiration the man must lay away from home until he is deadheaded back or returned with a train. The conductors in all classes of road service receive approximately one-third more pay than the brakeman. The difference between the wages of the two is easily estimated.

"To be specific, the wages paid in freight service in the eastern territory are as follows:

"Through freight: Engineers, $4.75; firemen, $2.45 to $2.60, according to class of engine. Way freight: Engineers, 25c additional and firemen 15c additional per day. Switching service: Engineers, $4.10; firemen, $2.50 and $2.60. One hundred miles or less, ten hours or less, constitute a day. A few roads pay engineers $4.85 and $5.15 per 100 miles or less for certain classes of heavy power, while other roads in the same territory, with heavier engines which handle approximately 25 per cent more tonnage, pay the same rate of $4.75 to the engineer, although the fireman gets the benefit of a graduated scale running from $2.45 to $3.40.

"Through and irregular freight, work, construction, snow-plow, circus or wreck-train service: Conductors, $0.04; flagmen, $0.0267; brakemen, $0.0267 per mile; runs of 100 miles or less to be paid for as 100 miles, on a speed basis of 10 miles per hour. Local freight service, way freight, pick-up or drop, mine and roustabout service are paid as follows: Conductors, $0.045; flagmen, $0.03; brakemen, $0.03 per mile; 100 miles or less, ten hours or less, constitute a day.

"Eight hundred dollars means that the brakeman who receives that amount must work 100 miles or less for every calendar day in the year. The railroad men are piece-workers; they do not get paid by the year, but by the days worked. Whatever wages brakemen receive above $800 are earned because they have worked overtime. It is no trouble to estimate these wages, for they are based on 100 miles or less, ten hours or less for the day's work. Wages are a trifle higher in the southern and western territories."

RAILROAD IS BLAMED FOR STRIKEBREAKERS

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 19.—In sentencing two strikebreakers to jail, Judge Connolly scored corporations for importing these men into the city. The accused were employed by the Michigan Central railroad during its recent strike of railroad clerks. When the strike was settled they were discharged, and then they stole from the company. In sentencing them to 90 days' in the house of correction, the court said:

"When a corporation brings an army of strikebreakers, many of them men with criminal records, to a city and then turns them loose on a city and the criminals steal from the corporation, I can't see why the officials expect the court to become wrathy because of the criminals' misdeeds.

"I can't work up much enthusiasm over this case. It is simply a case where the criminal bit the hand that fed him or the biter was bitten. It is only a natural course of development. The only good thing about the matter is that the corporation is the sufferer in this case and not some innocent citizen."

The Detroit News makes this editorial comment on Judge Connolly's views:

"The men were brought to Detroit by a corporation as strikebreakers, at high wages presumably, and were discharged when the strike was settled.

"Imported strikebreakers are not noted for self-control, nor for any precious respect of law and order. The court's disposition to blame the importer together with his hirelings is logical."

NEWS FROM NEW YORK.

New York, Feb. 19.—About 2,000 jewelry workers are striking for a 44-hour week. Several years ago these workers had a splendid trade union, but allowed their organization to lapse. The employers took advantage of this condition.

The four Bartenders' unions in Greater New York will amalgamate as a result of conferences between their members and officers of the international union.

Waiters' union No. 1 contemplates a strike of all men in restaurants and lunchrooms. The demands are a 10-hour day, a six-day week and a $7 weekly minimum.

The Machinists' union is attempting to organize the Nathan Manufacturing company, whose employes work sixty hours per week and average 25 cents an hour.

Officials of the Stage Employes' union are organizing the moving picture operators. Better working conditions will be demanded.

Officers and organizers of various trade unions are harassed in their work by private detectives whose gum-shoe methods are becoming a nuisance. The law is so construed that regular police cannot interfere, and a sentiment is being developed in organized labor to find ways and means for legislative enactment against this criminal class.

ESTABLISH MINIMUM WAGE.

Vincennes, Ind., Feb. 19.—The Central Labor Union has induced common council to insert a minimum wage clause in future sewer and paving contracts. Hereafter the lowest rate is 20 cents an hour.

The Central Labor Union has appointed a special committee to watch the construction of the new $135,000 school building, which is to be erected under union conditions.

The Steam Engineers' union has settled its differences with the National rolling mill and all engineers in that plant are now members of that organization.

INTEREST MONEY SAVED.

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 19.—Judge Thomas of the federal court has ruled against the claim of D. R. Loewe & Co., Danbury hat manufacturers, who claimed $30,000 interest on the savings of union hatters that had been attached pending final court disposition of this famous case. The interest had accumulated to this amount and the company demanded the last "pound of flesh" possible.

The court ruled against the company, holding that the hatters were entitled to the interest, as they would have to stand any loss had their investments turned out badly.

DEMAND AN EIGHT HOUR DAY.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 19.—Machinists employed by the Miller Saw Trimmer company are on strike since October 7 last for an eight-hour day and union conditions. This firm manufactures the Miller feeder used on platen presses, also the Miller saw trimmer, both machines being used exclusively in the printing trade. Printing Pressmen's union No. 64 is assisting the machinists. The unionists quote company officials as declaring a shop of this kind should be run on a nonunion basis, with 99 per cent specialists at $2.50 per day.

MINERS TO MEET OPERATORS.

New York, Feb. 19.—Next Monday representatives of the anthracite coal operators and the United Mine Workers' union will meet in this city to consider the 20 per cent wage demand of miners. The workers are asking for a two-years' agreement and the operators' publicity bureau is spending thousands of dollars to reach the public with their poverty plea. Despite this campaign, officials of the miners are confident of success, as their organization stands unitedly behind them.

LANSING UNIONISTS ACTIVE.

Lansing, Mich., Feb. 19.—After a four days' strike for increased wages and union recognition, the Stage Employes' union were guaranteed 35 cents an hour for hauling in and out and 75 cents an hour for operating shows.

The Press Assistants' union, affiliated to the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union, has secured wage increases of $2 a week.

The plumbers have organized and a general campaign for greater organization among other crafts is now underway.

A MILL STRIKE ECHO.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 19.—The state emergency board has voted $40,000 to the militia on duty at Youngstown recently. The largest single item in this sum is the pay roll, $28,700. The estimated total cost of the militia is between $55,000 and $60,000, but many bills, it is said, have not been submitted.

TO ORGANIZE DAIRY WORKERS.

San Francisco, Feb. 19.—Butter makers, cheese makers and other employes in dairies and creameries are to be organized by the Milkers' union. There are about 500 of these workers in and around San Francisco.

WHY CHILD LABOR BILL IS OPPOSED IN SOUTH

Greenville, S. C., Feb. 19.—According to the Home Circle, published in this city, here are the reasons why southern cotton mill owners oppose the Keating-Owen child labor bill, which is intended to exclude from interstate commerce child labor products:

"First—When children are excluded from the mills, they have to go to school, be educated and enlightened.

"Second—Ignorance is what pleases the cotton mill authorities.

"Third—Education means light, knowledge, power, emancipation and freedom.

"Fourth—The cotton manufacturers have been made vastly rich by working children at half wages, doing grown folks' work.

"Fifth—When this bill is passed, they well know they will have to pay the grown folks enough to support the children anyhow. If they don't, the farms are inviting them.

"Sixth—As long as they can keep the workers in ignorance, they can cheat and rob them and control them more.

"Seventh—When the textile workers are better educated, they can get better employment, therefore demand better wages—a decent living.

"The above are some facts and reasons why this bill is opposed by the money powers.

"Didn't the mill owners circulate and beg their employes to sign petitions, asking for this bill not to be passed, because it would seriously interfere with the factory business?"

CEMENT STRIKE STILL ON.

Mitchell, Ind., Feb. 19.—The Lehigh Portland Cement company has evidently abandoned its policy of intimidating workmen who have been striking for the right to organize. Low wages and long hours at this plant forced the workers to unite. This was followed by the most active members being discharged, followed by riots instigated by gunmen, imported by the company. The Tribune, published in this city, indicated the conditions against which cement workers struck when it boastfully declared: "In Mitchell we have the cheapest labor this side of China." The editor gave this as a reason why other industries should locate here.

The Lehigh Portland company has discovered its bludgeon policy has not produced results and has announced that hereafter the eight-hour day and a minimum rate of $1.70 will be the rule.

This company is still opposed to organized labor, and unionists say the latest move is an attempt to create the impression among cement users that the company is fair to organized labor.

INCREASE FOR PRINTERS.

Sacramento, Cal., Feb. 19.—The Typographical union and printing employers have agreed to the following wage rates for floormen: $24.75 per week until March 31, 1916; $25 from April 1, 1916, to September 30, 1916; $26 thereafter until December 31, 1918. The minimum rates for apprentices are: Third year, one-third of a journeyman's scale; fourth year, one-half of a journeyman's scale; fifth year, two-thirds of a journeyman's scale. A joint committee of employers and employes shall be appointed to devise educational methods for these apprentices.

Under the agreement all differences are to be adjusted by conciliation or arbitration.

Pasadena, Cal., Feb. 19.—The Typographical union has negotiated a two-years' agreement which provides for a $1 increase immediately and an additional $1 during the second year.

INVESTIGATE CANNERIES.

Sacramento, Cal., Feb. 19.—A wage board appointed by the state industrial welfare commission to investigate canneries in this state has reported a schedule of wage rates agreed to. It is stated that "If the hourly earnings should not equal the amount to be determined by the industrial welfare commission, as equalizing the necessary cost of living, these piece rates will have to be raised again next season."

Some trade unionists are suggesting that if the 20,000 women cannery employes in this state were organized they could appoint their own representatives and set a wage scale that would meet living conditions without experimenting an entire season.

HUGE DIVIDENDS DECLARED.

New York, Feb. 19.—The Winchester Repeating Arms company has declared a dividend of 465 per cent, and the Atlas Powder company a dividend of 25.80 per cent.

The report of the former concern shows net earnings of $4,652,094 on a capital of $1,000,000. The Atlas Powder company shows net income of $1,671,762 in 1915, compared with $474,150 in 1914.

Of the Winchester company's total business for the year, $11,500,000 represented domestic orders and $8,500,000 foreign, chiefly European delivery. The gross increase was one-third in excess of the preceding year. The stock, par value $100, recently sold as high as $3,000 a share.

DEFENDS STATE MILITIA.

Castle Rock, Col., Feb. 19.—The Colorado militia and its conduct during the strike of mine workers in the southern part of this state found a champion in the person of ex-Governor Ammons at the trial of four former strikers.

The ex-state executive condemned everyone who charged the militia with improper conduct. The federal government, a committee appointed by congress to investigate the strike and the commission on industrial relations were all wrong, according to the witness.

EIGHT HOURS IN SHIP YARDS.

Philadelphia, Feb. 19.—President O'Connell, of the A. F. of L. metal trades department, addressed a mass meeting of ship yard workers in this city last Saturday. This is the initial agitation in a campaign for eight hours in the Atlantic coast ship yards. All metal trades and other interested unions, together with the A. F. of L., will assign representatives to assist in creating a shorter work day sentiment.

JOINING SIOUX CITY UNIONS.

Sioux City, Iowa, Feb. 19.—The Brick Makers' union, organized a few weeks ago with 79 charter members, now has 125 members in good standing. City Firemen's association, organized February 2, includes 45 of the 47 eligible municipal firemen. Retail Meat Cutters' union has organized with a good charter list.

LOW WAGES A MENACE.

San Francisco, Feb. 19.—The Evening Bulletin of this city is not impressed with the steel trust's wage increase of 10 per cent or $1,500,000 to its 250,000 employes. The Bulletin editor says:

"This indicates an average annual wage of about $660 per man. The same result is obtained by multiplying the rate per hour—22 cents for unskilled labor—first by 10, as the average number of hours worked in a day, and then by 300, which is probably above the maximum number of days worked in a year. It has been a foresighted policy among steel manufacturers, blessed as they have been with an unlimited supply of unskilled labor from abroad, to attach to their service a number of men considerably in excess of those that they could employ at one time, or at least for any appreciable time.

"Besides this, it has to be remembered that the $660 rate is an average, and that there must be wages which fall below $660. Seven hundred dollars a year, according to the careful computations of numerous investigators, is the minimum amount on which the average workingman can bring up a family in bare decency. 'Bare decency' excludes nearly everything that we call luxuries. It signifies a condition under which a workingman is practically, in brutal terms, no better off than a breeding animal."

WOULD AMEND FACTORY LAWS.

Albany, Feb. 19.—Senator Wagner has introduced an amendment to the state labor laws which will deny employers the right of court review of decisions of the state industrial commission, increasing the penalty for locking doors in factories and more definitely fixing responsibility for enforcement of laws upon the whole commission. As the law now reads a factory owner who has been ordered to improve his property may go to the courts and delay enforcement.

Another amendment increases the penalty for a violation of the law requiring factory exits to be unlocked. Senator Wagner says that of all the fires which have occurred during the past few years where there has been a loss of life, nothing has contributed so much to the loss of life as locked exits.

DRIVERS SWEEP ST. LOUIS.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 19.—But one dairy company in this city is non-union. The Milk Wagon Drivers' union, about a month ago, called a strike in one of these concerns, and after a short suspension of work secured an agreement and wage increases. The drivers continued their campaign and now only one plant remains outside the fold. The union has secured increases that total about $100,000 a year.

FREIGHT HANDLERS ASK MORE.

Holyoke, Mass., Feb. 19.—Boston & Maine railroad freight handlers declare that $1.80 a day is an insufficient wage and have asked for a 15 per cent increase, Saturday half holidays and double time for over time.

New London, Conn., Feb. 19.—About 150 freight handlers, employed by the Central Vermont railway, suspended work to enforce an increase in wages of 5 cents an hour. They have been receiving 20 cents.

CULINARY WORKERS GAIN.

Douglas, Ariz., Feb. 19.—The Cooks and Waiters' union has secured an agreement with every hotel and restaurant in this city, and has also set a high standard for other Arizona culinary workers. Hereafter eight hours will be the workday instead of 10 and a one day rest in seven is agreed to, as is the following wage scale:

Waiters and waitresses, per day, $2.50, chief cook, $4; pastry cook, $3.50; fry cook, $3; kitchen helper, $2. Short shift, three hours or less, waiters, 40 cents; cooks, 50 cents; miscellaneous help, 25 cents. All overtime shall be one and one-half time.

STRIKE RAISES WAGES.

Pittsburg, Kan., Feb. 19.—A suspension of work by smeltermen, near here, has forced other plants to raise wages, and the struck company is paying strikebreakers a wage rate that it refused to pay striking employes.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Perth Amboy, N. J., Feb. 19.—Differences between the Electrical Workers' union and employers have been adjusted. Wages are increased 50 cents a day. Rates for helpers are also increased.

Aid For State Industrial Training Favored By National Lawmakers

Washington, Feb. 19.—The proposed law providing for national aid to vocational education has been reported favorably by committees of the senate and the house. This legislation contains the elements of the Dolliver bill, introduced in 1908 by Senator Dolliver at the request of the American Federation of Labor.

While differences yet exist as to the administration and other details of the proposed law, it is agreed that federal grants should be made to states that develop industrial training of children.

In its report to the house, the committee on education explains the purposes of this legislation.

"The American people have hardly begun the work of providing for the practical education of millions of our wage earners," it says. "In this whole country there are fewer trade schools than are to be found in the now unfortunate little German kingdom of Bavaria, with a population not much greater than that of New York city.

"If we assume that a system of vocational training, pursued through years of the past, would have increased the wage earning capacity of each of these to the extent of 10 cents a day, this would have made an increase of wages for the group of $2,500,000 a day, or $750,000,000 a year, with all that this would mean to the wealth and life of the nation.

"Only trained intelligence can conserve our mines, our forests and our water powers; only trained intelligence can restore to our depleted land its old fertility; only trained intelligence can make it possible for us to maintain our higher standard of living for workers, and yet successfully compete with the workshops in lands where lower standards prevail.

"Only half of the children who enter the city elementary schools of the country only remain to the final elementary grades, and only one in ten reaches the final year of high school. On the average, 10 per cent of the children have left school at the age of 12; 40 per cent have left by the time they are 14; 70 per cent by the time they are 15, and 85 per cent by the time they are 16 years of age. On the average the schools carry their pupils as far as the fifth grade, but in some cities great numbers leave below that grade."

On January 20, 1914, President Wilson approved a law creating a commission on national aid to vocational education. On the commission is two trade unionists, President Agnes Nestor of the International Glove Workers' union and Charles Winslow, a member of the Sawsmiths' union. The commission has investigated this question and many of its findings and recommendations are embodied in the legislation now pending.

Strike Benefits Copper Workers Reports Government Conciliators

Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 19.—At the request of Governor Hunt, Hywel Davies and Joseph S. Myers, federal commissioners of conciliation, have forwarded the state executive a list of gains made by 5,000 employes in the Clifton-Morenci-Metcalf copper district, after a strike of several months.

Before the strike these workers were denied any form of organization and during the strike the mine managers refused to arbitrate. The commissioners now state that no objection is made to "a local organization among the men," and that "the results indicate that about 90 per cent of the employes are members of this local organization, which is represented by a committee of five from each of the three companies."

Hereafter committees representing the workers will be recognized, and the managers will hold monthly conferences with the committees. "In other words," say the commissioners, "the latch string is on the outside of the managers' office door, instead of the inside, as claimed was the case in the past."

Heretofore the rule has been to pay Mexicans less than Americans. It is now agreed that "the job will fix the wage, regardless of race." This means a general advance of not less than 20 per cent to Mexicans and Spaniards. A minimum wage for these camps will be fixed on the highest basis of any mining camps in the state regardless of race. Wages of skilled workmen have been increased so that they will now compare favorably with the best in the state.

All employes are to be re-employed without discrimination and guarantees are made that foremen who exploit their workmen will be discharged.

"The psychological effects of the strike," continues the commissioners, "are shown in the elimination of race prejudices and the development of brotherhood among the workmen, which bears fruit in unity of purpose and willingness to suffer and sacrifice for their common good.

"This brief outline indicates an evolutionary condition that should, under sane leadership on both sides, bring about an era of good will that means peace and prosperity to the state at large.

"It also emphasizes the uniqueness of the strike, which has been conducted on a different plane to any western strike of similar magnitude and duration.

"It is also a pleasure and a privilege to convey to you the personal thanks of Hon. W. B. Wilson, secretary of labor, for the invaluable assistance and co-operation which you so kindly extended to the undersigned commissioners of conciliation, appointed by the secretary of the department of labor, to investigate and conciliate the strike."

WHY SAILORS DO NOT SAIL

Vancouver, British Columbia, Feb. 19.—A local newspaper bemoans the fact that it is a problem to find sailors for Canadian vessels. Business Agent Burns of the Sailors' union makes this reply in the British Columbia Federationist:

"It is the same problem that confronts every maritime nation today. The white man is leaving the sea, and his place is being taken by the Oriental.

"Why? Because the sailor no longer wishes to be a slave. He wants to be as his fellow men ashore, free to quit his job if he does not like it; to be able to earn a wage that will keep him in the necessaries of life, and to have a decent place to live in.

"Any seaman will tell you which he would sooner go in, sail or steam. The answer would usually be steam. His wages are usually a little higher and the work a little easier. It is usually through force of circumstances that they go in sailing ships and he stays no longer than he can help.

"We have sailors' homes and churches and everything else to look after his spiritual welfare, but nothing is ever thought of for his comfort while on earth. Give the sailor the same freedom as his fellow men enjoys.

"The United States has taken the first step in that direction, by passing and placing on the statute books a law declaring all men who sail on United States ships free men and giving them better accommodation, better food and many other improvements. The results will not be noticeable for a few years, but when it does, it will be seen that a better class of men will man their ships, either sail or steam.

"Canada can do no other than follow the example set by the United States, if she wishes to have a merchant marine. Make the sailor a free man, and the problem of where to find sailors will not exist for long."

VALUE OF COMPENSATION LAW.

Beaver Falls, Pa., Feb. 19.—The value of compensation legislation was shown in this city in the case of a workman who had the tip of his finger cut off. As injuries of this character are common, the employe signed an insurance company release for $1. Later the wound became serious and the employe could not work. State compensation officials ruled that the release was illegal and ordered that the employe be given medical treatment and half pay until he is able to return to work.

SHIP YARD WORKERS STRIKE.

Camden, N. J., Feb. 19.—A short strike of 150 helpers in the New York Shipbuilding company's yards increased wages from $8.64 to $10.08 a week. About 500 men in the "bolting up" department secured higher wages after a few days' strike and machinists received a 5 per cent increase when they threatened to suspend work.

FIFTY TANNERS STRIKE.

Woburn, Mass., Feb. 19.—About 50 employes of the Fox leather factory are on strike for higher wages. The men have been receiving from $10 to $11 a week and are now asking $12.

PATTERN MAKERS STRIKE.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 19.—Pattern makers employed in Detroit contract shops are on strike for an eight-hour day five and one-half days a week, or a 44-hour week. About 200 pattern makers are involved.

MINERS' EXECUTIVE ANSWERS OPERATORS

Hazelton, Pa., Feb. 19.—In a statement by President Thos. Kennedy of district No. 7, United Mine Workers, this unionist again shows that members of organized labor are fully competent to cope with the paid publicity agents of coal operators or other employers who would disregard facts in their attempt to mold public opinion.

The operators' publicity department has claimed that the cost of labor disputes in the coal industry would dig another Panama canal. To this, Kennedy replies. "If the water was squeezed out of the financial end of the coal operators' affairs, it would float the English navy."

"The statement from the operators is along the usual lines known to every person in the country," says the coal miner. "They profess great solicitude for the coal consumer at this time, when they hope to use them. The consumers, however, know and understand that the price of anthracite coal is not based on the cost of production, but is based on the monopolistic principle of charging all that 'the traffic will bear.'

"The operators are not willing to permit the public to accept the figures of the representatives of the public, namely, the federal government. They desire that the public accept their figures, which in the past have proven so misleading that the United States government and various state governments have appointed numerous commissions to investigate such figures, which bear all the ear marks of suspicion.

"The operators question the right of our demand for a two year agreement. We hold that such a period is long enough, and the fact of the international convention deciding upon the policy of continuing at work pending the settlement of wage disputes eliminates the contention of the operators. The operators reserve unto themselves the right to raise coal on the slightest pretext, and will raise it twice in one year as they have done. They, themselves, by their past actions show they don't believe in long agreements on the price of coal when they cannot continue to drag the same profits out of it."

OPPOSE MERGER OF BOARDS.

Boston, Feb. 19.—Trade unionists in this state are opposing the proposed merger of the industrial accidents board, minimum wage commission, board of conciliation and arbitration and board of labor and industries, as advocated by Governor McCall in his inaugural address. The workers insist that the work of these boards is not identical, and that each has a wide scope to develop efficiency. At a recent conference of delegates representing central bodies, the following resolution was adopted:

"We are unalterably opposed to any action by the legislature that will change the identity or in any way consolidate or merge the duties now incumbent upon the industrial accidents board, the minimum wage commission, board of conciliation and arbitration and board of labor and industries, it being our opinion that each board or commission has ample work to perform in its own especial field without taking on the work of any other board or commission."

BELLEVILLE STRIKES WON.

Belleville, Ill., Feb. 19.—A 7 1-2 per cent wage increase and a nine-hour day have been secured by stove mounters employed by the Baker Stove Works company. A contract has been signed.

Metal polishers employed by the same company have won their strike and secured union recognition, a nine-hour day and a minimum wage rate.

CODE TO PROTECT WORKERS.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 19.—A general safety advisory committee, consisting of representatives of employers and trade unions, and state officials, has submitted to the state industrial commission for its approval a new code of rules for the protection of workmen in steel mills, glass furnaces, foundries, and brass and aluminum foundries.

OBJECT TO CHARITY BUREAU.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 19.—Trade unionists object to placing the proposed municipal employment bureau under the city and county charity commission. They insist that few workmen will go to the bureau if it is associated with charity.

LAUNDRY WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Troy, N. Y., Feb. 19.—Officers of the Laundry Workers' International union report that locals have been formed at Pocatello, Idaho; Miami and Globe, Arizona and Edwardsville, Ill., during January.

CARPENTERS TO ASK FOR MORE.

Duluth, Minn., Feb. 19.—The Carpenters' union has approved a new wage scale of 55 cents an hour to take effect May 1. The present rate is 47½ cents, although many contractors are paying more than this minimum.